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THE GREAT ESSAY
#2

Alex Lozupone

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You could easily have described each character more — (knowing you) that would give it more depth

The 1920's lifestyle can be easily summed up with the quote, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." This lifestyle involved doing everything that you wanted to; to live for the moment. Time was not spent thinking about tomorrow, it was spent having fun today. Who cared about consequences in this golden age! It was a philosophy that brought on innumerable "basic" pleasures, many of which involved drugs (such as alcohol) and sex. It was also a philosophy that brought on the downfall of its followers, and everyone around them.

Very true

One can see how this lifestyle destroys people's lives by examining, among others, the character of Daisy in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, The Great Gatsby. If it werent for this spur-of-the-moment lifestyle, Daisy's life would be drastically different, as would every other character's.

As the story goes, Daisy and Gatsby were lovers five years before the story took place. Athough Daisy's ~~[illegible]~~ exact feelings for Gatsby were not mentioned, it can be assumed that if they were anything like Gastby's towards Daisy, the two would have gotten married.

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Gatsby, however, had been sent to the war, and his only contact with Daisy was via the postal service. Daisy, following this live-for-the-moment philosophy, got tired of waiting for Gatsby, and married Tom Buchanan instead. Daisy simply was not content with waiting around, hoping something would happen, so she decided to "give up" on Gatsby, with no concern with his feelings.

Another example of this destructive lifestyle's effects, occurs later on in the story. It is revealed that Tom's love life was not limited to Daisy; he also "saw" a lot of Myrtle Wilson, wife to George Wilson. Both Tom and Myrtle, living for the moment, did not stay completely loyal to their spouses. Neither gave a second thought about their spouses' feelings, or, God forbid, the consequences. This philosophy lead to Myrtle's death, George's unhappiness and jealousy, Gatsby's death, and Daisy's guilt over killing Myrtle. If Myrtle hadn't cheated on George, he would never have locked her up. She, in turn, would not have run out in panic, and been nearly crushed by oncoming traffic. Therefore, George would not have killed Gatsby for killing Myrtle, and the story would be vastly changed.

Right— drastic consequences

Daisy also continued to follow this philosophy, but not to the very end. When she was "re-introduced" to Gatsby, the two "pick up" where they left off. Daisy, perhaps looking for some excitement, told Tom she doesn't love him, and loves only Gatsby. That she will leave him, to marry Gatsby. She cared nothing about security, or Tom's feelings. She simply wished to run off with Gatsby. All that mattered was that she and Gatsby had a good time. However, a changed occured in her course of actions. She ultimately decided to leave Gatsby, to leave the city, and stay with Tom. She decided that she would rather stay with Tom, and be secure. Perhaps she started to think of Gatsby as the sort of con artist Tom portrayed him to be. Perhaps she just couldn't bear being near anything related to this horrible instability in her life. Perhaps she realized, finally, how destructive this sporatic lifestyle could be to one's future.

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